

Rhys Llewellyn Thomas

HERC, Oxford Population Health
University of Oxford, Old Road Campus
Oxford, OX3 7LF

Website: <https://rhysllthomas.github.io/>
Email: rhys.thomas@dph.ox.ac.uk
Linkedin Profile: [linkedin.com/in/rhysllewellynthomas](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rhysllewellynthomas)

I am a Senior Health Economics Researcher at the Health Economics Research Centre (HERC), University of Oxford, and a Fellow by Special Election at St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford, where I teach undergraduate courses in Economics. My research focuses on applied microeconomic analysis of health-related questions. My current work spans three broad areas: metascience, international comparisons of healthcare resource use, and patient behaviour and healthcare utilisation in the NHS. I have substantial teaching experience at undergraduate and postgraduate level, including Health Economics, Microeconomics, and quantitative methods courses. I am an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Academic Positions

2025 - *Present* Senior Health Economics Researcher (promotion) - HERC, University of Oxford
2024 - *Present* Fellow by Special Election - St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford
2021 - *Present* Associate Member, Department of Economics, University of Oxford

2024 - 2025 Health Economics Researcher - HERC, University of Oxford
2021 - 2023 Early Career Teaching and Research Fellow - St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford

Education

2023 Advancing Teaching and Learning (Associate Fellow of Advanced HE) - University of Oxford
2017 - 2022 Ph.D Economics - University of Southampton
2016 - 2017 MSc. Economics (Distinction) - University of Southampton
2013 - 2016 BSc. Economics (First Class Honours) - University of Southampton

Publications

Thomas, R.L., Roope, L., Duch, R., Robinson, T., Zakharov, A., (2025) ‘Lottery or Triage? Multi-country survey-based experiment evidence from the COVID-19 pandemic on public preferences for allocation of scarce medical resources.’, *Medical Decision Making*.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0272989X251367777>

Companion “The Conversation” article: *Should we decide by lottery who gets a medical treatment first?* (link)

Thomas, R.L., Millett, C., Sousa Soares, R., Hone, T., (2024) ‘More Doctors, better health? A generalised synthetic control approach to estimating impacts of increasing doctors under Brazil’s Mais Medicos Programme.’, *Social Science and Medicine*.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.117222>

Thomas, R.L. and Mentzakis, E. (2024) ‘The direct and spillover effects of diabetes diagnosis on lifestyle behaviours’, *Health Economics*. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1002/hec.4803>.

Working Papers

Thomas, R.L., P. M. Clarke, K. Emond, and A. Barnett, ‘Who Applies When Funding is Randomised? Partial Randomisation and Applicant Characteristics’, *Revise and Resubmit at ‘Research Policy’*.

Thomas, R.L., L. Roope, R. Duch, P. Kotlarz, V. Kiparoglou, H. McShane, P. M. Clarke, ‘Is there sufficient global public willingness to fund resilience to future pandemics? Evidence from 16 countries’, *Under review*.

Thomas, R.L., B. McConnell, E. Mentzakis, ‘From Screen to Script: Saliency, Information, and Health-Seeking Responses to a Media Shock’, *First draft*.

Teaching Experience

Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford

- Postgraduate:
 - Health Economics (2025 & 2026)

St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford

- Undergraduate:
 - Probability and Statistics (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, & 2026)
 - Core Microeconomics (2021 & 2022)
 - Public Economics (2021 & 2022)
 - Labour Economics and Inequality (2023)

Lincoln College, University of Oxford

- Professional:
 - Challenges of Globalisation (2024)

University of Southampton

- Undergraduate:
 - Undergraduate Dissertation (2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020)
 - Applied Microeconomics 3 (2019 & 2020)
 - Quantitative Modelling in Economics (2019)
 - Foundations of Microeconomics (2017 & 2018)
 - Principles of Microeconomics (2017 & 2018)
- Postgraduate:
 - Health economics and policy (2020)
 - Masters Dissertation (2019 & 2020)

Additional Experience

Department for Education - Higher Economic Assistant

December 2018 - April 2019

At the Department for Education I worked on two main projects:

- Timpson review of school exclusion - technical note:
The analysis aimed to estimate non-causal associations between a number of school and pupil characteristics and the probability of being excluded. Published report available at [this link](#).
- School-level factors associated with disadvantaged pupil performance: This project involved using statistical learning techniques to analyse the factors most associated with disadvantaged pupil performance.

Additional Activities & Responsibilities

Funding: NHS Race and Health Observatory - CI (2026)
British Academy Partial Randomised Allocation Trial - CI (2025)
UKRI Metascience research grants - CI (£172,039.20) (2024)
University of Western Australia Research Collaboration Award - CI (2024)
University of Oxford OPEN Workshop (2024)
SABE: Workshop Support Programme (2024)
ESRC 1+3 Studentship (2016)

Conferences: International Health Economics Association Congress (2025)
Metascience Conference (2025)
PhD-EVS Seminar Series (2021)
Royal Economic Society Conference (2021)
XXV AIES National Conference (2020)*
30th Congress of the European Economic Association (2020)
European Health Economics Association Conference (2020)*
ALdE XXIII Applied Economics Meeting (2020)*
ESRC South Coast DTP Final Year Conference (2019)
Economics PhD Workshop, University of Southampton (2018)
Family Finance Surveys User Conference (2017)

*Conferences I was accepted to but was not able to attend due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Presentations: Using partial randomisation to award research funding at The British Academy (2024)
Oxford-OECD Symposium on data linkages, disease expenditure, and comparisons (2024)
Nova School of Business and Economics (2023)
Department of Applied Economics, HEC Montréal (2023)
Academic Unit of Health Economics, University of Leeds (2022)
Virtual Seminar on the Economics of Risky Health Behaviors, Cornell University (2021)
Public Health Policy Evaluation Unit, Imperial College (2019)

Referee Experience: Economic Modelling (2025)
Social Science and Medicine (2024)
PLOS ONE (2021 & 2022)
SSM - Population Health (2020)
Heylion (2018)

Administrative Responsibilities: NIHR Predoctoral fellowship Supervisor (2025 - Present)
Health Economics Module (MSc GHSE) Co-lead (2025 - Present)
HERC Internal Work-in-progress Seminar Series Organiser (2025 - Present)
MSc Global Health Science and Epidemiology Admissions Shortlister (2025 - Present)
Using partial randomisation to award research funding workshop at The British Academy Organiser (2024)
Oxford-OECD Symposium on data linkages, disease expenditure, and comparisons Organiser (2024)
Economics Organising Tutor (2022 - 2023)
St Edmund Hall Sustainability Sub-Committee (2022 - 2023)
Economics Sub-Faculty Committee (2021 - 2023)
St Edmund Hall Tutorial Committee (2021 - 2023)
Undergraduate Admissions for PPE and E& M (2021 - 2023)
Lead PPE Admissions Tutor (2022 - 2023)
College Advisor to Postgraduate Students (2021 - Present)
St Edmund Hall Economics Discussion Event Organiser (2021 - 2022)
Internal PhD Seminar Series Organiser (2018 - 2020)
Undergraduate Economics Programs Validation Student Representative (2020)
1st Southampton Applied Workshop Co-organiser (2019)
Postgraduate Economics Programs Validation Student Representative (2018)
SCDTP Final Year Conference Organiser (2017)

Other Competencies

Languages: English (native), Welsh (native).

Software Skills: Stata (Advanced), L^AT_EX(Advanced), R Statistics (Intermediate).